



KYRGYZ REPUBLIC PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

United States Agency for International Development/Central Asia Region

http://www.usaid.gov/locations/europe_eurasia/car/index.html

ENTERPRISE & FINANCE

Implementing Partners

BUSINESS INFORMATION AND SKILLS: USAID's Enterprise Development Project (EDP) provides business and trade advisory services, as well as business and accounting training to Kyrgyz small and medium enterprises (SMEs). USAID served 134 businesses, which benefited by obtaining a combined \$1.6 million in financing and saw a cumulative \$1.5 million growth in sales, a 35% increase from 2002 sales figures. Last year, EDP delivered over 31,000 participant hours of business training which helped upgrade skills such as marketing, management and human resources management. The USAID designed and administered Certified International Professional Accountant (CIPA) program is the first Russian language accounting certification program and is recognized by the International Accounting Standards Board. Our assistance surpassed its targets for training accountants in International Accounting Standards by training, testing, and certifying 327 Certified Accounting Practitioners.

USAID has taken an integrated approach to SME development in the Ferghana Valley, Central Asia's most productive agricultural region and one of its most volatile. In the Ferghana Valley, three countries must share scarce resources and maintain stability simultaneously. USAID is working to strengthen agribusiness on different levels; building SME capacity, removing investment constraints, improving access to credit, and giving technical assistance on modern agricultural practices. Business and trade advisory services consulted 21 clients whose cumulative sales grew by 29% and who also completed a total of 29 deals worth \$92,000. USAID sponsored the Agro-Input Enterprise Development Project, which works to establish a market based network for supplying agricultural inputs such as high quality seed, fertilizer, and plant protection products. USAID's support of Israel's Center for Cooperation (MASHAV) has helped provide over 700 business consultancies to agro-enterprises on topics from business strategy to stock breeding and trained more than 350 entrepreneurs. Through the Farmer-to-Farmer program, USAID sponsors executive volunteers to deliver industry-specific technical assistance to small and medium agribusinesses.

USAID's Education Network (EdNet) Academy offers more intensive business and economics training. Professors and students benefit from better textbooks and learning materials through cooperation with Junior Achievement. USAID advisors worked closely with the Ministry of Education to develop and administer the former Soviet Union's first national merit-based testing program, which significantly reduces opportunities for corruption in the allocation of scholarships. The program will award its first 5,000 national scholarships this year.

Pragma Corporation,
Carana Corporation,
Junior Achievement
International
MASHAV,
Winrock International

TRADE & INVESTMENT: USAID is streamlining the legal and regulatory environment for SMEs and helping to develop a system of commercial and land legislation to support private enterprise and land market development, as well as provide additional support in commercial law and private land ownership rights and obligations. USAID provided financial and technical support to the Investor Roundtable (IRT), a body composed of senior government officials and representatives from the private sector that advises the GOKG on the legal and regulatory environment for businesses and creates plans of action for improving it. The partnership has been vital to developing national strategies and initiating action to support SME growth, as well as creating the political will necessary to create change on the national level. Advisors are providing post-WTO accession support and determining a timeframe for Kyrgyzstan's graduation from WTO assistance. USAID experts drafted resolutions accepted by government that provide more detail than previous resolutions to ensure greater WTO compliance and

Pragma Corporation,
Bearing Point, Chemonics,
ARD/Checchi and Helvetas

<p>improved trade policies. WTO experts and members of a working group established by the Presidential Committee on Technical Regulation Reform completed a WTO-compliant draft law On Technical Regulations. This law will significantly reduce the number of product certification requirements for SMEs and help transform the Kyrgyz quality standards regulator, KyrgyzStandard, into a modern, quality, service-oriented certification body, thereby reducing costs and time demands on Kyrgyz businesses.</p> <p>USAID has also supported the evolution of an urban and rural land market by implementing land use techniques and educating citizens and government on land law. In cooperation with local administrations, USAID fielded pilot demonstration projects in the cities of Tokmok, Osh, Jalalabad, and Cholpon-Ata where studies and maps were completed on current land use in each of the cities. Workshops were held on the implementation of zoning regulations and model rules for land use and development were published to inform city planners and zoning boards. USAID's Legal Assistance for Rural Citizens (LARC) project resolves land disputes through legal consultation and representation, and instructs local government structures in the proper application of land law. LARC's legal assistance centers brought actions on behalf of their clients in 622 cases, including seven in-court cases of which four were decided in favor of the client and two are still pending. The Kyrgyz Republic is introducing a market value based property tax system with USAID technical assistance from. New articles in the tax code established the legal basis for real property tax as a local annual tax that can be introduced by resolution of city governments.</p> <p>The Legal Infrastructure for a Market Economy (LIME) project builds commercial law awareness among legal professionals and entrepreneurs as well as provides technical assistance in drafting commercial legislation. LIME created a judicial opinion database which presently contains 13,000 opinions and hyperlinks to all laws, decrees and regulations cited in any opinion. The database enables the Kyrgyz public to learn what cases courts are hearing; what legal issues and problems arise; how cases are being decided and how the law is being applied. LIME has also played an important role in the drafting of a pledge & mortgage law, essential for creating incentives for lending institutions to do more lending, and the adoption of a joint stock company law which establishes the basic standards, rules and procedures for corporate governance.</p>	
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<p>FINANCIAL MARKETS: USAID funded the development and implementation of an on-site and off-site bank supervision system that features an early warning system to identify problem banks and thus add security and confidence to a developing banking system. The National Bank has now replaced outdated accounting standards for commercial banks with International Accounting Standards; USAID provided training to approximately 200 accountants from the National Bank and commercial banks in IAS to facilitate the transition. USAID continues to promote legal reforms to increase the National Bank's independence. The training of 45 judges in banking law, including 9 from the Supreme Court, supported that effort. USAID supports access to microfinance through the Central Asia Microfinance Alliance (CAMFA), and CAMFA partner FINCA, which disbursed a total of \$24.7 million in loans through its offices in Bishkek and Osh in FY03. FINCA established itself as a local organization that will continue offering services under the new microfinance law after USAID assistance has expired. Bai Tushum, a microfinance institution with offices in Osh and Jalabad, has disbursed over 2,000 loans with a total value of \$3.4 million in less than three years of operation, its loan repayment rate is 98%, and it received an "A" rating based on a World Bank sponsored assessment. USAID partnered with EBRD in Kyrgyzstan to deliver a micro and small business finance program through commercial banks which includes the recruitment and training of loan officers to administer a \$15.3 million credit line. USAID also provides technical assistance and financial support to offer entrepreneurs greater access to alternative sources of capital, including equity, debt and leasing.</p>	<p>Pragma Corporation BearingPoint, SEAF, EBRD, ACDI/VOCA/FINCA</p>
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<h2>ENERGY & WATER MANAGEMENT</h2>	<h3>Implementing Partners</h3>
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<p>WATER SECTOR: Kyrgyzstan is characterized by high mountain ranges that capture abundant snowfall, making the country rich in water resources. The country is highly dependent on significant amounts of hydro-electric power, particularly for heating during the cold winter season. Electricity is required because Kyrgyzstan has access to few oil and natural gas resources. Several USAID initiatives are directed at helping find solutions to this dilemma through new technologies,</p>	<p>PA Consulting, Winrock International, Development Alternatives Inc.,</p>
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<p>procedures, and management approaches that will reduce energy use and, ultimately, bring down the Kyrgyz demand for winter water. USAID's water sector initiatives are primarily directed at: a) upgrading weather and water resources data collection and monitoring systems; and b) training in how to use this data and apply it in water management decisions, both at the national level as well as the regional transboundary water level. For example, USAID is actively assisting the Ministry of Environment in developing its ability to measure snow-pack and forecast annual river flows. Automated weather reporting stations, which have now been installed in six remote areas, will improve snowmelt and river flow monitoring, an essential of forecasting downstream flow. To facilitate and contribute to regional collaboration, USAID is installing a unified communication network that will enable the rapid distribution of critical, real-time water information among all countries in the region. This system will soon be operational. Under USAID's on-farm water management activity, 15 water control and measuring structures, serving about 1,000 farmers, help farmers more effectively manage irrigations flows and increase production. These measuring devices, designed and manufactured in by USAID's implementing partner in Kyrgyzstan, are new to the irrigation sector and have the potential for regional and, perhaps, more extensive marketing. These structures have been adopted for use in other projects financed by the World Bank and other international donors.</p>	<p>Riverside Technologies Inc., MASHAV, Meteor Communications Corporation</p>
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<p>ENERGY SECTOR: The principal USAID energy activity in Kyrgyzstan is the implementation of a small community hydropower demonstration model scheduled for completion in mid 2004. The small hydropower plant is located along the Naiman canal near the village of Jangy-Naukat, a largely Uzbek community in the southern Osh Oblast. Currently under construction, this system will provide a reliable source of electrical power to the community and will be a self-sustainable system operated at the local level. It will also serve as a demonstration of the small hydropower potential of mountainous regions. The system serves about 3,000 households and will help to create at least 80 new jobs in a sewing mill and a fruit processing plant that rely on its power. The system will power irrigation pumps and reduce tree-cutting and smoke that results from the wood fires used for heat and cooking.</p> <p>In addition to promoting energy efficiency at its source, USAID is addressing end user practices. Inexpensive, energy efficient heating systems are being installed in two hospital complexes to reduce high utility bills. These new or retrofitted heating systems will be used as models for similar such facilities throughout the country. In addition to the equipment retrofits/installations, USAID capitalizes on these models as a teaching tool for hospital administrators and architects from throughout the country. Pilot heating projects demonstrate the efficacy of simple, cost-effective technologies that result in energy conservation and cost savings. Considerable public awareness to generate public participation is underway, with the full participation of the State Energy Agency, which is focusing on fostering, and advocating, public participation in rule making. Also, last year, a successful heat-loss reduction demonstration model was completed in two public schools in Kara-Balta, where automated heat regulation systems were installed and monitored. The activity demonstrated to residents and community leaders the advantages of automatically adjusting the heating requirements of its school buildings, not only diminishing costs but also creating a more comfortable learning environment for more than 1,400 students. Lower heating costs will permit the schools to recover the cost of the upgrade within two years. In response to this effort, the Kara-Balta city administration is committed to replicating the project using anticipated savings through the creation of its own energy-efficiency development fund within the city budget. Over time, the fund will grow and will allow for the replication of USAID's model to all the city's schools, hospitals, and other public buildings.</p>	<p>PA Consulting, Winrock International, Development Alternatives Inc., Riverside Technologies Inc., Minerals Management Service, U.S. Department of Interior</p>
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<h2>DEMOCRACY & CONFLICT MITIGATION</h2>	<p>Implementing Partners</p>
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<p>CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS: USAID/CAR's civil society program supports a network of eleven civil society support centers that provide training seminars, technical support, information resources, networking opportunities and professional services to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and associations. USAID provides training and resources to strengthen the financial and institutional sustainability of these centers. The program includes funding to provide institutional grants for leading NGOs in specific sectors, community development grants to help NGOs to engage with their communities and advocate for their needs at the local level, and focusing on social partnerships and advocacy at the national level. USAID also provides assistance in the development of a comprehensive legal and fiscal framework that will support and strengthen the NGO</p>	<p>Counterpart, ICNL</p>
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sector, as well as direct legal support and services for NGOs through the CSSC Network.	
<p>MEDIA & INFORMATION: USAID’s media initiative provides training and assistance to improve the use of modern production technology and update journalism quality in both print and broadcast media. In addition, a production fund encourages local programming, and a legal advisor provides consultation to alternative media outlets. USAID began support of a new program through the Kazakh freedom of speech NGO, Adil Soz, to support press freedom advocacy in the Kyrgyz Republic. A USAID-funded civics textbook for 10th and 11th graders focuses on such wide-ranging topics as civic responsibility, women in political life, and international human rights. 10,000 students in 167 schools participated in the USAID-sponsored civic education course last academic year. A second volume of the civic education textbook is being published in Russian, Kyrgyz and Uzbek and introduced in 85 additional schools. 874 students participated in extra-curricular civic activities such as Student Local Government Days, Summer Democracy Camps, and Student Action Committees. USAID’s anti-trafficking program focuses on prevention and protection. This new initiative will provide grants to local organizations; will work with NGOs to educate citizens about the ploys and tricks traffickers use to recruit individuals, and about alternative employment opportunities; and will assist local crises centers and shelters in offering support services to trafficking victims. USAID continues its training and technical support program for human rights activists and organizations, which focuses on human rights monitoring, reporting and advocacy. This program is a complementary activity to a democracy information center program funded by the State Department’s Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.</p>	<p>Internews, ICFJ, Adil Soz, IFES, Winrock, Freedom House</p>
<p>CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE: As demonstrated by the number of protests and government critics, civil society and political opposition are more active in Kyrgyzstan than elsewhere in Central Asia. A coalition of NGOs supported by USAID continues to play a vital watchdog role by monitoring elections, participating in public hearings on proposed legislation, and promoting citizen discussion of legislative change. As part of USAID’s civic advocacy program, approximately 140 key advocacy NGO leaders participated in advocacy trainings, and the program will continue this year with advanced advocacy training and an expanded grants program. A limited political party training program will be implemented this year, to help political parties to develop and compete in the 2005 presidential and parliamentary elections.</p>	<p>National Democratic Institute</p>
<p>ACCOUNTABLE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS: USAID’s rule of law program helps upgrade legal education, trains lawyers in international and domestic laws, disseminates legal information, and helps the country adopt ethical codes for legal professionals. USAID is expanding judicial training to include criminal and non-commercial civil judges. USAID continues to facilitate involvement of the public in the legislative process, initiate important procedural reforms in parliament, and assist in the development of key pieces of democratic legislation. Last year, 18 local governments cumulatively held 42 public hearings on the local budget, communal property, asset management, and other issues, and six cities held open council meetings. In support of local government and decentralization, USAID is developing new city management tools and citizen participation techniques in 22 Kyrgyz cities and nine villages. USAID is also supporting the development of legislation which provides the framework for a decentralized government system.</p>	<p>ACDI/VOCA</p>
<p>CONFLICT MITIGATION: USAID’s conflict prevention activities are focused in the south, where tensions run especially high because of closed international borders that restrict trade, disputes that have resulted from recent land reform measures, a general lack of information, government control of media, unemployment, and general problems that arise in ethnically mixed population centers such as the Ferghana Valley. Some examples of USAID’s conflict mitigation activities include a school shared by neighboring villages in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan; a drinking water pipeline that will provide clean water for two villages that straddle the Kyrgyz-Uzbek border; and a gas pipeline and health clinic for two Kyrgyz villages both isolated within Uzbekistan. By the spring of 2005, approximately 60,000 direct beneficiaries of small-scale, community-driven projects are expected in at least 50 communities. More importantly, the ties developed through the community strengthening component of this activity will build the capacity for communities to deal with local conflicts on their own before they become serious.</p>	<p>ACDI/VOCA, Mercy Corps</p>

HEALTH & EDUCATION

Implementing Partners

QUALITY PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: Kyrgyzstanis increasingly receive outpatient care from primary health care (PHC) practices, rather than specialty polyclinics. USAID’s family medicine retraining and continuing medical education have been institutionalized, as the last of five classes of trainers graduated from their yearlong program, resulting in completed staffing of all oblast-level family medicine training centers. The first Faculty of Family Medicine Nursing in the Commonwealth of Independent States is successfully retraining family nurses for PHC. As the number of retrained family doctors and nurses approach targets, both the doctor and the nurse retraining programs are coming to be recognized as training programs for family medicine teachers for other countries of Central Asia.

The family medicine training program is setting up continuing medical education programs and linking these with continuous quality improvement pilots in each oblast. Kyrgyzstan is also moving in a unique direction by setting up a comprehensive national framework to improve the quality of care. Family medicine training centers have integrated previously vertical programs, like IMCI, family planning and TB-DOTS into family medicine training and, in light of the emerging problem with malaria in the south of the country, PHC doctors were trained on malaria, too. Successful pilot projects in two cities have demonstrated that vertical programs to diagnose and treat STIs can be successfully integrated into PHC and provide care at lower cost than the current system.

USAID has awarded 15 health grants and 16 community action grants to local NGOs to implement activities that address priority health needs. The National Family Group Practice Association provides a growing number of member services and is developing its community role. The National Hospital Association is expanding training in financial management. USAID is extending the single payer system to the south of the country and is expanding a pilot project to introduce co-payments to bring informal payments into the system. Introduction of an outpatient drug benefit is beginning to show that utilization of PHC increases when drugs are available there. USAID is also collaborating with The World Bank and other partners to help the government plan reform of the public health system through the Sanitary and Epidemiological Service. CDC is implementing a pilot program to introduce the internationally-accepted WHO-definition of infant mortality. This involves policy change at the national level, training of perinatologists, obstetricians, and pediatricians, and provision of equipment to assist in resuscitation and measurement of newborns.

Abt Associates,
Counterpart Consortium

MOTHER & CHILD HEALTH: USAID is rolling out key MCH programs, such as integrated management of childhood illnesses (IMCI) and family planning, nationally in a highly sustainable way, by virtue of having integrated them into family medicine training. To increase women’s access to contraceptives in the rural areas of Kyrgyzstan, midwives in one district were trained to add IUD insertion to their skills—under carefully-monitored conditions to protect clients’ safety. Prior to this training, Kyrgyzstani women were required to see a specialist (usually urban-based) for such treatments. The Ministry of Health is eager to expand such training to rural areas nationwide and midwife training is being introduced in two more districts. The continuous quality improvement system introduced in 2001 for reproductive health services has been expanded to new clinical areas, including child health, and is being introduced nationwide. USAID’s cross-border soccer and volleyball competitions among youth promote cooperation between different ethnic communities, undermine myths and rumors, and build self-esteem for young people. Anti-drug and healthy lifestyle messages are part of game days with more extensive health education efforts to be developed during the next year. USAID promotes healthy behaviors with campaigns on diarrhea, breastfeeding, etc. and improves interpersonal communication with PHC clients by training health staff.

Abt Associates

INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL: USAID began work on TB control with the Ministry of Health (MOH) in 1997 on a limited scale to assist with implementation of the WHO-recommended Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS) strategy. In 2001, the MOH asked USAID to strengthen the DOTS monitoring system nationwide. USAID, in close collaboration with local TB specialists, is now supporting training and monitoring in all oblasts. To-date, USAID trained more than 750 TB specialists and primary health care doctors as well as 93 laboratory specialists. To allow policy makers to rapidly analyze TB trends and make informed decisions, USAID extended nationwide the TB Epidemiology Case-Based Surveillance System. USAID

CDC,
Project HOPE,

<p>delivered computers to each region of the country. The TB ESCM system is based on the CDC-developed Epi Info program and the data entered is the WHO TB-01 standard form that was adapted to Kyrgyzstan's reporting requirements. USAID provided training in data entry and training for decision makers on how to interpret the data. USAID conducted a workshop on TB Drug Management with an emphasis on quantification, planning and monitoring sessions. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will continue to strengthen the National Infectious Disease Reference Laboratory and will establish a regional training program on blood safety, including the development of a pilot site in Bishkek and the provision of four serology labs to Bishkek and oblast-level labs. Two Kyrgyzstanis are participating in the two-year Applied Epidemiology program at the Kazakhstan School of Public Health. USAID will respond to the malaria outbreak by developing a regional approach to malaria control including activities in Kyrgyzstan.</p>	
<p>HIV/AIDS CONTROL & PREVENTION: Although by global standards HIV prevalence in the Kyrgyz Republic remains relatively low (with a concentrated epidemic among injecting drug users), there is potential for an uncontrolled and widespread HIV/AIDS epidemic as in Russia and the Ukraine. By August 2003, Kyrgyzstan reported 453 HIV positive cases but the true figure is estimated as 10 times higher. Under-estimation results from the lack of proper diagnostic systems and absence of an efficient surveillance system. USAID and CDC are helping establish two sentinel surveillance sites in Bishkek and Osh, where the largest HIV-positive populations are currently found, and have trained experts to gather and analyze the data. USAID is also collecting behavioral information in high HIV-transmission locations, to better focus AIDS prevention programs in the bars, clubs, parks and other sites where the need is greatest.</p> <p>Containing HIV will require a number of approaches, including peer and outreach education activities that support behavioral changes among injecting drug users and sex workers and improve access to condoms to reduce transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV. Because the HIV epidemic in Central Asia is fueled by injecting drug use, USAID is supporting efforts to reduce demand for illegal drugs by promoting effective and sustained countrywide drug prevention policies and by supporting local organizations that work with vulnerable populations including youth, sex workers, prisoners, and migrants/displaced persons/refugees. Initial groundwork has been completed for a condom social marketing program with primary focus on vulnerable youth. Five grants have been awarded to HIV/AIDS NGOs for work on prevention with high-risk groups, including prisoners. Each project offers basic medical care, free condoms, referrals to social workers, legal services, and access to STI clinics and HIV testing sites. The Ministry of Health has decided that STI treatment must be available in PHC clinics. USAID is supporting the first such pilot in northern Kyrgyzstan and initiating a second in the south. If successful, these models should lead to a nation-wide program.</p>	<p>CDC, PSI, Soros, University of North Carolina</p>
<p>HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS: Kyrgyzstan is benefiting from better prepared health managers and nurses due to new departments established at the Kyrgyz State Medical Academy through partnerships with the University of Nevada School of Medicine and the University of South Florida Health Sciences Center. The partnership is engaged with the Ministry of Health and the Postgraduate Institute in an effort to develop a single national family medicine residency training program. Faculty teaching, research, and evaluation of student clinical skills are also being strengthened.</p>	<p>AIHA</p>
<p>BASIC EDUCATION: The USAID Basic Education Sector Strengthening Program (BESSP) began in January 2003, focusing on five major aspects of the education system: in-service teacher training, classroom-level learning materials development and textbook development, parent and community involvement in education decision making, management and technical capacity at all levels of the education system; and rehabilitation of school infrastructure. The program will also facilitate policy dialogue on education finance through a finance working group which will propose solutions and implement pilots to solve larger education finance issues. During this first stage of the program, 11 pilot schools were selected as pilot sites of BESSP. Training of trainer activities have commenced at pilot schools during the summer of 2003, promoting modern teaching methodologies, such as Step-by-Step, and Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking to 283 teachers of primary and secondary grades. Three Community Education Committees (CEC) were established around the pilot schools in order to build partnerships between the school and the community, and initial training for 21 school administrators on effective management also took place. Beginning in 2004, the pilot schools will serve as training and resource hubs for clusters of surrounding schools, thereby expanding the outreach and impact of the USAID Basic Education Program. School infrastructure rehabilitation by CECs will begin in the summer of 2004 after infrastructure improvement and maintenance plans are</p>	<p>AED</p>

developed by schools.	
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<p>NATIONAL TESTING: Since 2002, at the request of the Kyrgyz Government, USAID supports the Kyrgyz National Testing Initiative, which provides a fair opportunity for high-school graduates to receive government funding for higher education. Administered at over 80 sites for over 35 thousand applicants, the test promotes transparency and fairness of the examination and enrollment processes. Unlike regular entrance exams, the test is design to measure aptitude that is ability to learn, thereby providing an even playing field for applicants from schools in less advantaged and rural areas. This year, the focus is on the transfer of test design and implementation to an independent testing organization that will conduct the test in the future.</p>	American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS
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SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES	Implementing Partners
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<p>EURASIA FOUNDATION: Eurasia grants help implement USAID’s objectives and complement other USAID programs in the economic and democracy sectors. In FY 2003, the Eurasia Foundation awarde 29 grants to Kyrgyzstani NGOs, with an average grant size of nearly \$17,000. Half of these grant funds supported civil society development, with the remainder targeting improvements in the areas of private enterprise and, to a lesser degree, public policy and administration. Grants support three main program directions: legal consultation services, the Ferghana Valley Initiative to forge cross-border connections in this politically sensitive area, and the Local Governance Initiative to help make local government more effective and transparent. Eurasia launched two new grant initiatives, both in the area of private enterprise development; one focused on business incubators, and one on the support of artisans and craftsmen.</p>	Eurasia Foundation
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<p>PARTICIPANT TRAINING & EXCHANGES: In FY 2003, USAID trained over 3,400 Kyrgyzstani citizens (approximately 50% were women) through the participant training project. The Kyrgyzstan program focuses on SME development, fiscal and tax reform, higher education, NGO development; and advocacy, management and technical training for primary health care workers. Participants in these programs represent a broad cross section of society, from government ministers and heads of businesses to NGO leaders and individual citizens committed to reform in their areas of expertise. An important aspect of the training is its regional nature, which allows colleagues across borders to share lessons learned and, where relevant, to develop cooperative solutions to common problems. Training also supports and complements USAID’s other crosscutting objectives of youth and education, rule of law and anti-corruption, reducing gender bias, and conflict mitigation. Fiscal and tax reform, SME development, local governance, primary health-care reform, energy and water resources, conflict resolution, education reform were focus areas for participant training courses in FY '03.</p>	AED
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Glossary of Acronyms:

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| <p>ABA/CEELI: American Bar Association/
Central and East European Law Initiative</p> <p>ACDI/VOCA: Agricultural Cooperative Development International/
Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance</p> <p>AED: Academy for Educational Development</p> <p>AIHA: American International Health Alliance</p> <p>CDC: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</p> <p>EBRD: European Bank for Reconstruction and Development</p> <p>HOPE: Health Opportunity for People Everywhere</p> <p>ICFJ: International Center for Journalists</p> | <p>ICMA: International City/County Managers Association</p> <p>ICNL: International Center for Not-for-Profit Law</p> <p>IFES: International Foundation for Election Systems</p> <p>IOM: International Organization for Migration</p> <p>KEA: Kazakhstan Energy Association</p> <p>MASHAV: Israeli Development Agency</p> <p>NDI: National Democratic Institute</p> <p>OSCE: Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe</p> <p>PSI: Population Services International</p> <p>SEAF: Small Enterprise Assistance Fund</p> |
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USAID assistance to Central Asia helps increase opportunities to improve citizens' knowledge, livelihoods, participation and dialogue in social, economic and political life.

To learn more, please visit our website at: http://www.usaid.gov/locations/europe_eurasia/car/index.html.

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